

story by
**TSUKASA
KAWAGUCHI**

art by
**NOBUHIKO
YANAI**



Lord Marksman — and Vanadis —



ELEN,
THE WIND
PRINCESS
OF SILVER
FLASH...

TWO
ARROWS
LEFT...

IF I
KILL
HER,
WE'LL
ALL
GO
HOME
SAFE.

CAN'T
MISS
HER!

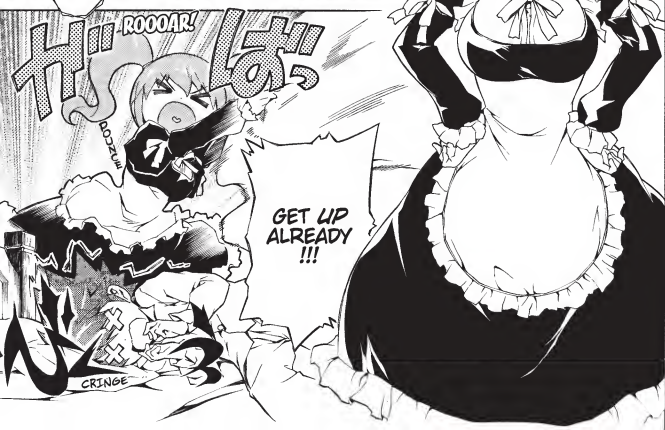
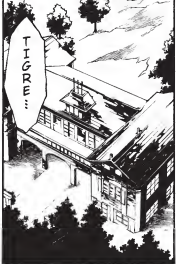
Art: NOBUHIKO YANAI
Story: TSUKASA KAWAGUCHI
Character Design: YOSHIAWO

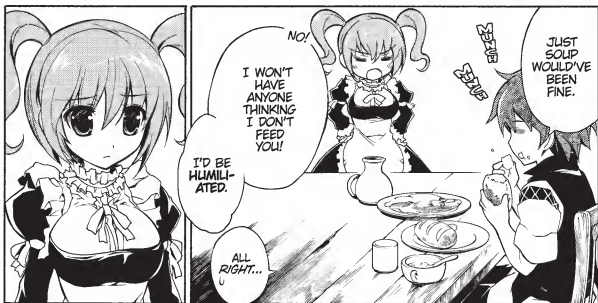
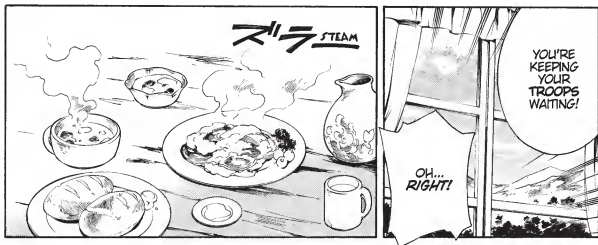
WIND
AND
STORM
GODDESS
ELLIS...

Lord Marksman
and Vanadis

1











WHY
DO YOU
HAVE TO
GO TO
WAR?



B-
BESIDES,
THEY DON'T
RESPECT
YOUR
MARKS-
MANSHIP...

I DON'T
EXPECT
PRAISE.

THAT'S
NOT
THE
POINT!



HIS MAJESTY
SUMMONED
ME. AS HEAD
OF THE VORN
CLAN, I'M
OBLIGED TO
ANSWER.

B-
BUT...

ALSACE
IS SO PEACE-
FUL, SO REMOTE
...

WE HAVE
FEWER
THAN A
HUNDRED
SOLDIERS
HERE.



.....



AND
COME
BACK
SAFELY...
PLEASE.



JUST
DON'T
GET
HURT.



IT
WOULD
WORK
OUT.

WELL
...

AND THIS TIME,
WE'RE BRINGING
UP THE REAR.
I'LL BE FINE.
EVEN IF
SOMETHING
HAPPENED...

ALL
RIGHT.



I DON'T
USUALLY
OVER-
SLEEP!

D-
DON'T
OVERSLEEP
AT THE
BATTLE-
FIELD!

OH,
YES,
YOU
DO!

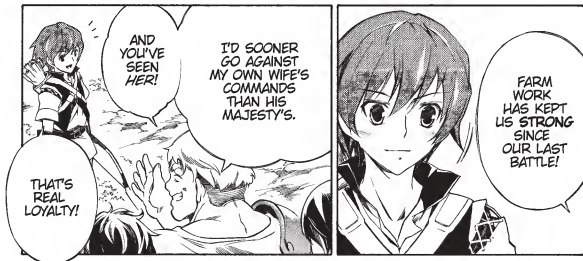
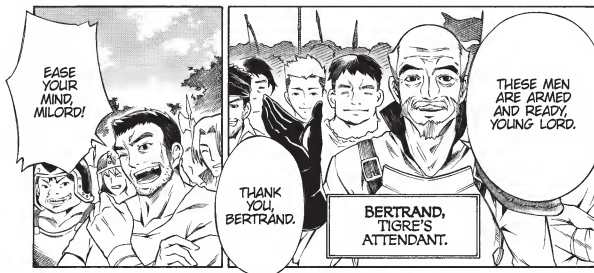
HMPH!



I CAME BACK
SAFELY TWO
YEARS AGO,
REMEMBER?

TWO
YEARS
AGO,
YOUR
FATHER
WAS
THERE.







BUT DISPUTES
OVER A FLOODED
RIVER BORDER
TORE A RIFT
BETWEEN THE
KINGDOMS.



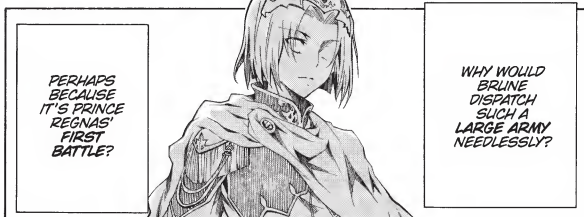
PEACE
REIGNED
BETWEEN
THEM FOR
THIRTY
YEARS.

THE KINGDOMS OF
BRUNE AND ZHCTED
LIE IN THE EAST.

Alsace

Zhcted

Brune



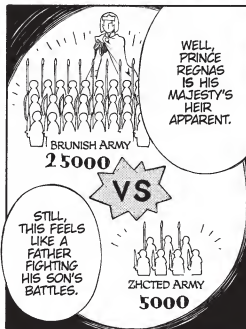
PERHAPS
BECAUSE
IT'S PRINCE
REGNAS'
FIRST
BATTLE?

WHY WOULD
BRUNE
DISPATCH
SUCH A
LARGE ARMY
NEEDLESSLY?



I CAN'T BELIEVE HOW MANY SOLDIERS HIS MAJESTY DRAFTED FROM THE PLAINS TERRITORIES.

GOOD GRIEF!



WELL, PRINCE REGNAS IS HIS MAJESTY'S HEIR APPARENT.

BRUNISH ARMY
25000

VS

STILL, THIS FEELS LIKE A FATHER FIGHTING HIS SON'S BATTLES.

ZHCTED ARMY
5000



OVER 25,000, HMMM?

QUITE A SIGHT

THEY COULD TROUNCE MY ARMY OF THREE HUNDRED!

MASHAS RODANT, A FRIEND OF TIGRE'S FATHER.



ZHCTED'S SEVEN WAR MAIDENS, YOU MEAN?



ON THAT NOTE, TIGRE, DO YOU KNOW OF THE WAR MAIDENS?



WELL, WE'RE OUT OF HARM'S WAY BACK HERE.

I SLIP-POSE.

IT'S A CHANCE FOR THE PRINCE TO FIND HIS FEET IN BATTLE.



THAT'S
RIGHT.

ONE
MAIDEN
WILL LEAD
ZHCTED'S
TROOPS
AGAINST
BRUNE.

ZHCTED IS
RULED BY A
KING AND
SEVEN WAR
MAIDENS,
EACH WITH
THEIR OWN
DOMAIN.



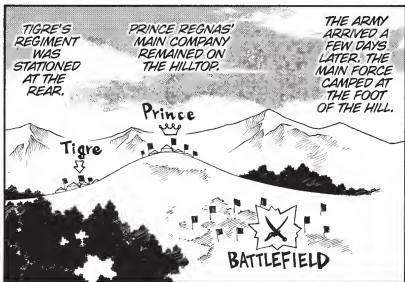
**ELEONORA
VILTARIA.**

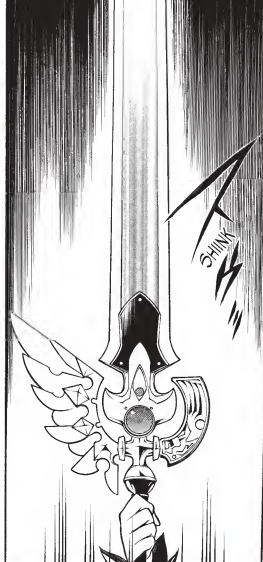
HER LEADERSHIP
AND SWORDPLAY
EARNED HER A
COLORFUL NICKNAME:
THE WIND PRINCESS
OF SILVER FLASH
AND DANSEUSE
OF THE SWORD.

SHE'S
UNDEFEATED
IN BATTLE,
YET A MAID
OF SIXTEEN.

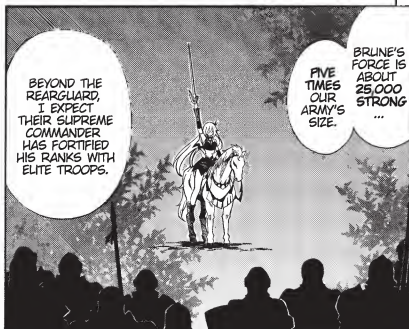
SHE'S
ONLY
MY
AGE?







SHINK

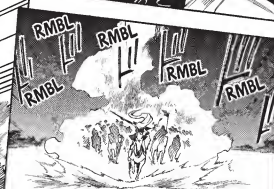
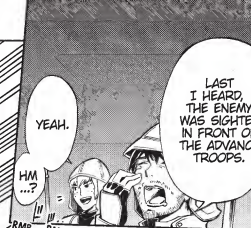


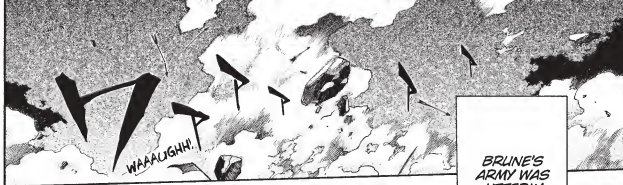
BEYOND THE
REARGUARD,
I EXPECT
THEIR SUPREME
COMMANDER
HAS FORTIFIED
HIS RANKS WITH
ELITE TROOPS.

FIVE
TIMES
OUR
ARMY'S
SIZE.

BRUNE'S
FORCE IS
ABOUT
25,000
STRONG
...

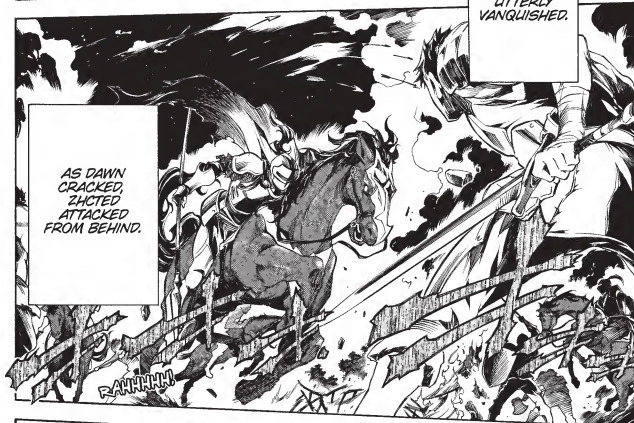






BRUNE'S
ARMY WAS
LITTERLY
VANQUISHED.

AS DAWN
CRACKED,
ZHUO
ATTACKED
FROM BEHIND.



DON'T
GO!

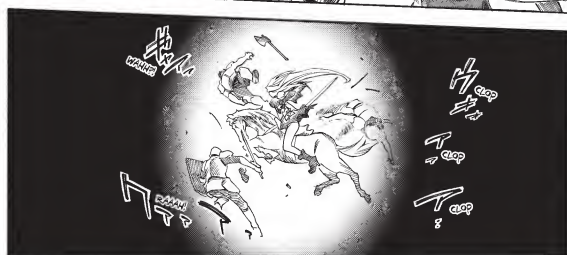
COME
BACK
!!

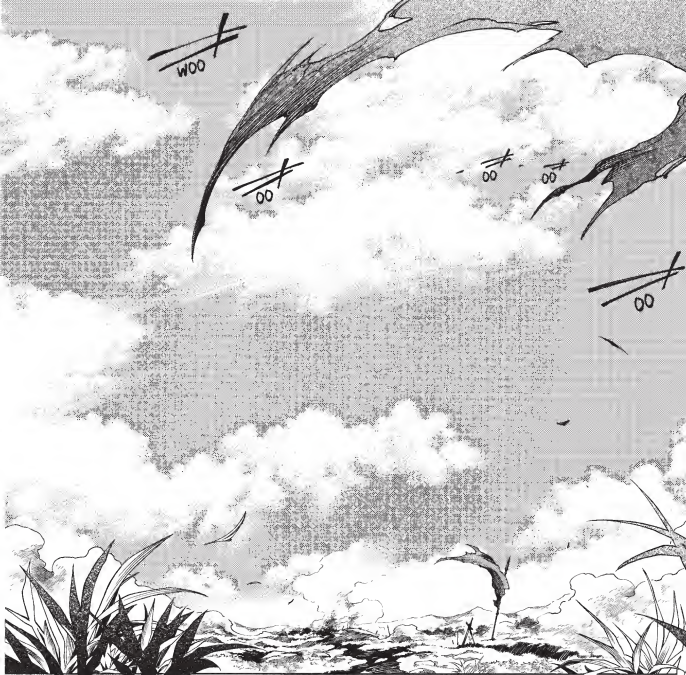


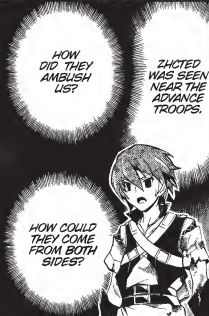
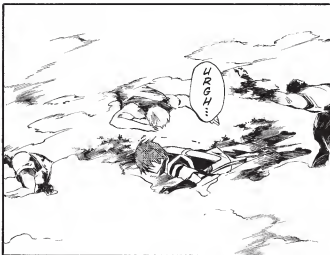
HOLD
YOUR
POSITIONS!



FIGHT!



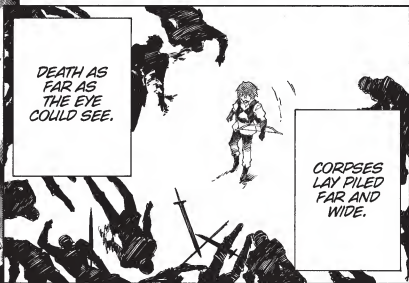




HOW
DID THEY
AMBUSH
US?

ZHCTED
WAS SEEN
NEAR THE
ADVANCE
TROOPS.

DEATH AS
FAR AS
THE EYE
COULD SEE.



CORPSES
LAY PILED
FAR AND
WIDE.

HOW COULD
THEY COME
FROM BOTH
SIDES?



THAT
PLAN'S
SIMPLE
ENOUGH.

THEY WERE
AT A CLEAR
DISADVANTAGE.
DID THEY
SPLIT UP?

BUT TO PULL
IT OFF ON
A FORCE
FIVE TIMES
THEIR SIZE...
UNHEARD OF!



THAT'S...



THE
WAR
MAIDEN
....!!



Y
A
H
H
!



I'LL
FIX
THAT!

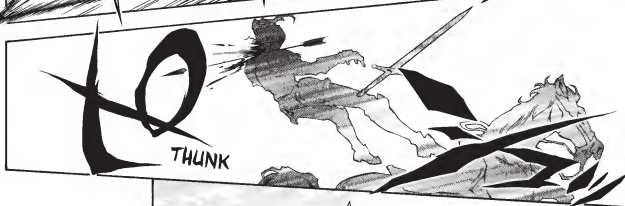


MISSED
YOU,
DID
WE?!



SCREEAK...

CLENCH



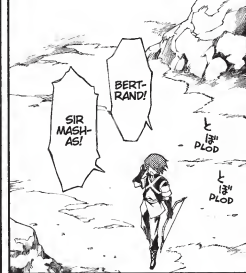
NO...

WAIT
--!



I HAVE
TOTAL
FAITH
IN MY
MARKSMAN-
SHIP.



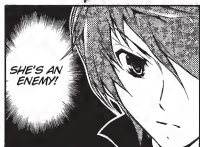


SHE
WAS QUITE
BEAUTIFUL.

SIR
MASHAS
SAID...



SHE'S AN
ENEMY!



WAIT
...



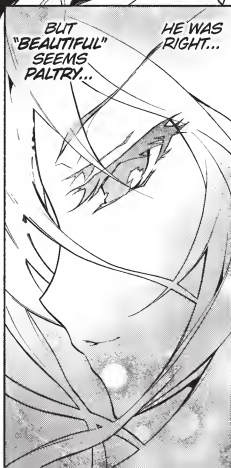
BUT
"BEAUTIFUL"
SEEMS
PALTRY...

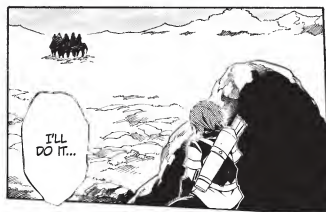
HE WAS
RIGHT...

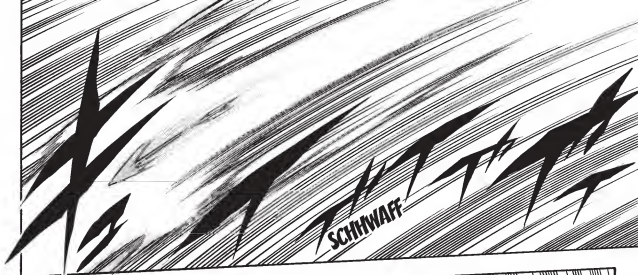
THEIR ARMY
SHOULD BE
PURSUING
BRUNE'S
SCATTERED
RANKS.

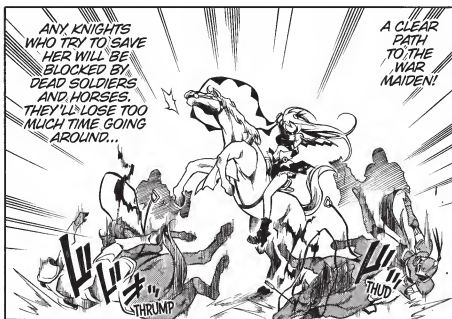
THOSE
OTHER
KNIGHTS
MUST
BE HER
GUARDS.

DON'T
ADMIRE
HER.

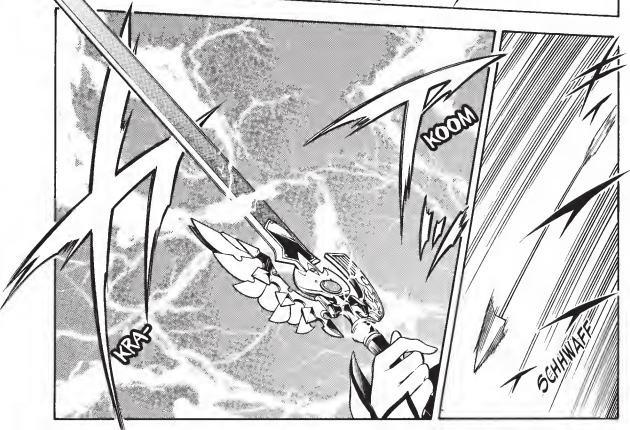
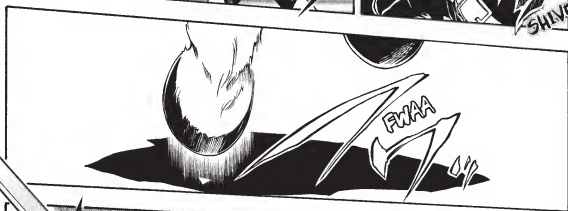














SHE
STRUCK IT
DOWN...

AND...



WHAT
--?!



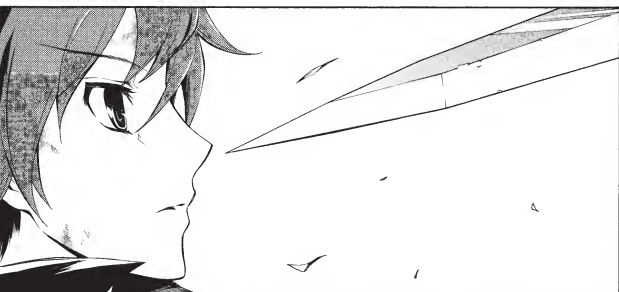
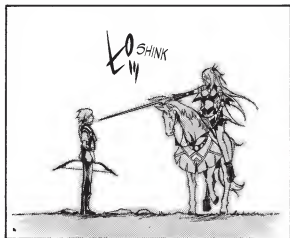




SHE'S LIKE
SOMETHING
OUT OF
LEGEND.

OR STOP A
SPEEDING
ARROW
MIDFLIGHT?

HOW
COULD
SHE
DODGE?





TIGRE-
VURMUD
VORN.

EXCEL-
LENT,
COUNT
VORN.



DID
SHE SAY...
"IMPRES-
SIVE"?

I'M
ELEONORA
VILTARIA.

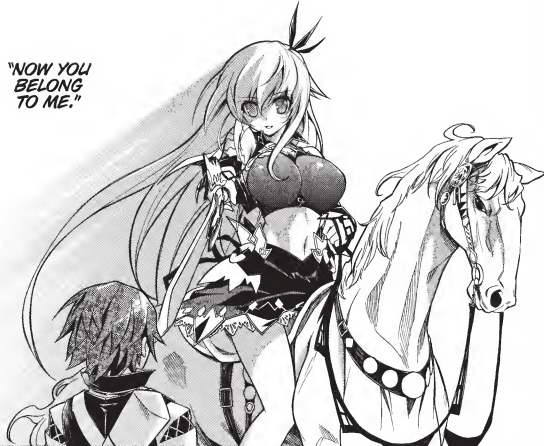
AND
YOU
ARE?



NOW YOU
BELONG
TO ME.

CHAPTER 1: END

**"NOW YOU
BELONG
TO ME."**



**LIM,
GIVE
HIM A
RIDE.**

**THEY LOST
FEWER THAN
A HUNDRED
SOLDIERS.**

**BE
GENTLE
WITH
HIM.**

**BUT
MORE
THAN
5,000
BRUNISH
SOLDIERS
PERISHED,
TWICE
AS MANY
WERE
INJURED.**

**THE WAR
ENDED IN
ZHCED'S
SWEEPING
VICTORY.**



PRINCE
REGNAS,
SUPREME
COMMANDER
AND HEIR
TO THE
THRONE,
HAD
PERISHED.



SIT STILL.
DON'T GIVE
ME AN
EXCUSE
TO THROW
YOU OFF.

WHAM

HEY!

HEY!

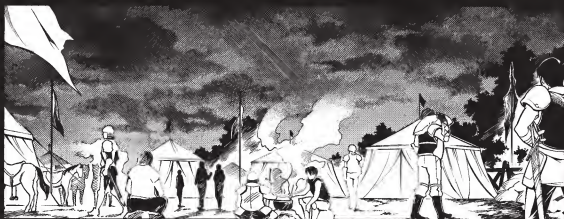
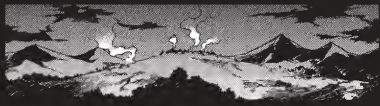
AMONG
BRINE'S
MANY
CASUALTIES
...

WAS A
DEATH
WHICH HIT
HARDER
THAN
MOST.



2

◆ THE SURE-EYED
MARKSMAN







YEAH!

**SO WHAT?!
WHO CARES
IF IT BREAKS?!**

**CAN'T
HANDLE
A PROPER
SWORD?!**



**YOU
DARE
INTER-
FERE
WITH
LORD
ZION?!**

**BAS-
TARD!**



**YOU
COULD
HAVE
BENT MY
BOW!**



**A BOW IS
FOR COWARDS
WHO CAN'T
STOMACH
THE THICK
OF COMBAT!**

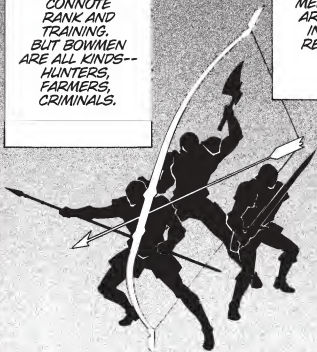


EASE
OFF
GENTLE-
MEN!

A
H
E
M.

SWORDS
AND SPEARS
CONNOTE
RANK AND
TRAINING.
BUT BOWMEN
ARE ALL KINDS--
HUNTERS,
FARMERS,
CRIMINALS.

BRUNE'S
MILITARY
MEN HOLD
ARCHERY
IN LOW
REGARD.



YOU'RE
AN OAF WITH
A BLADE,
VORN. IT'S
NATURAL
YOU'D
SETTLE FOR
A BOW.

LOOK
AT HIM!

GARBED IN
LEATHER,
HEAD TO
TOE!

TOO
PISS-POOR
FOR PROPER
ARMOR?!



A NOBLE-
MAN,
CARRYING A
HIGHWAY-
MAN'S
WEAPON!

BWA
HA
HA
HA



SIR
ZION.

YOU'RE
PRO-
FOUNDLY
ELOQUENT.

AND, NO
DOUBT,
PARCHED
FROM
ALL THAT
TALKING.

THEY'VE
TAPPED
A WINE
BARREL.
WHY NOT
GO TOAST
YOURSELF?



THANK
YOU,
SIR.

I SHOULD
HAVE
INTERRUPTED
SOONER.

DIDN'T
SEE A
CHANCE.



LET'S
GO!

H-
HUMPH!





ZION HAS
THEM ALL
AVOIDING
US.

NO ONE'S
EVEN
GLANCING
OUR WAY.

SWORDS
AND SPEARS
DON'T BESTOW
CHIVALRY.
HE'S PROOF.

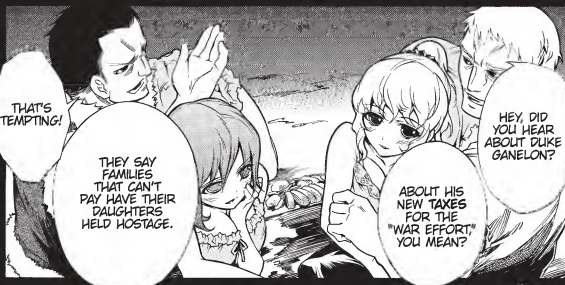


THAT'S
TEMPTING!

THEY SAY
FAMILIES
THAT CAN'T
PAY HAVE THEIR
DAUGHTERS
HELD HOSTAGE.

HEY, DID
YOU HEAR
ABOUT DUKE
GANELON?

ABOUT HIS
NEW TAXES
FOR THE
"WAR EFFORT,"
YOU MEAN?



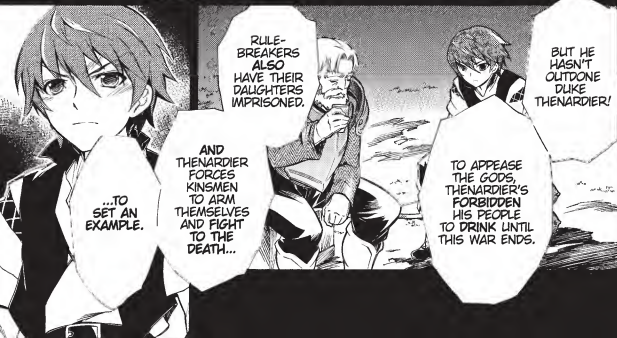
RULE-
BREAKERS
ALSO
HAVE THEIR
DAUGHTERS
IMPRISONED.

BUT HE
HASN'T
OUTDONE
DUKE
THENARDIER!

...TO
SET AN
EXAMPLE.

AND
THENARDIER
FORCES
KINSMEN
TO ARM
THEMSELVES
AND FIGHT
TO THE
DEATH...

TO APPEASE
THE GODS,
THENARDIER'S
FORBIDDEN
HIS PEOPLE
TO DRINK UNTIL
THIS WAR ENDS.



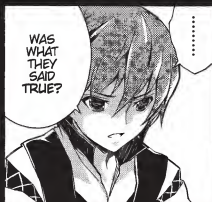


TAKE IT
EASY.



GAH!

HE EVEN
TAKES BETS
ON THE
WINNER.



WAS
WHAT
THEY
SAID
TRUE?



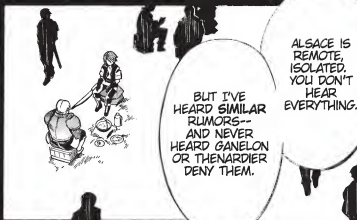
THIS
MAY SOUND
CRUEL, BUT
THERE'S
NOTHING
YOU CAN DO.

HOW
CAN
I?!



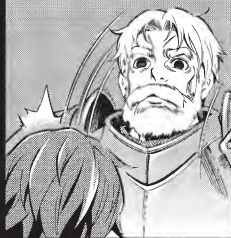
HE
OVER-
LOOKS
THIS?

AND
HIS
MAJ-
ESTY
...

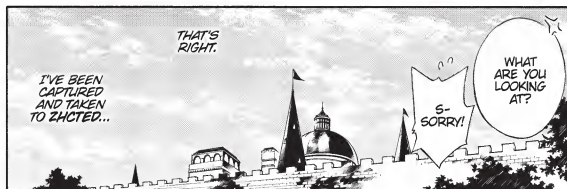
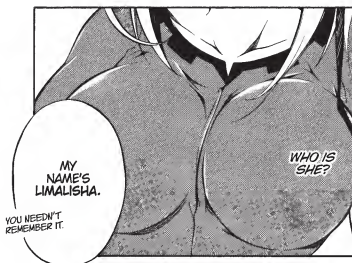


BUT I'VE
HEARD SIMILAR
RUMORS--
AND NEVER
HEARD GANELON
OR THENARDIER
DENY THEM.

ALSACE IS
REMOTE,
ISOLATED.
YOU DON'T
HEAR
EVERYTHING.









NATU-
RALLY.

EVERYONE'S
HARD AT
WORK.



THIS IS
LORDSS
ELEONORA'S
MANOR.

.....



TITTA
MUST BE
WORRIED.



I'VE NEVER
LEFT BRUNE
BEFORE.

THE EXTERIORS
AND MOSAIC
TILE FLOOR
SEEM QUITE
UNUSUAL.

THEY'RE
STRIKING.



HEE
HEE!

YOU'RE
QUITE BOLD,
TO SLEEP SO
SOUNDLY.

BOLD,
OR
DENSE.

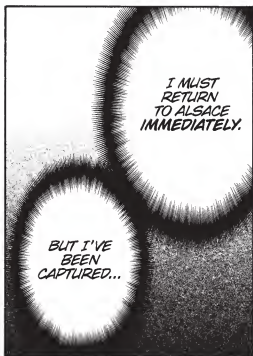


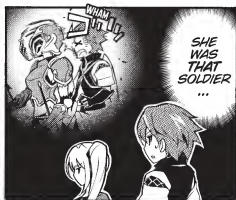
WHAT
ARE YOU
STARING
AT?



OH.

I WAS
ADMIRING
THE ARCHITEC-
TURE.







※ Brune's currency consists of silver coins called "denier."



THIS IS
HOPE-
LESS!!

TITTA,
BERTRAND--
EVEN
SIR MASHAS
CAN'T AFFORD
IT!

THAT'S
ABOUT
THREE
YEARS'
WORTH OF
REVENUE IN
ALSACE!

AS PER
THE TREATY,
ANY ESCAPE
ATTEMPT WILL
RESULT
IN YOUR
EXECUTION.



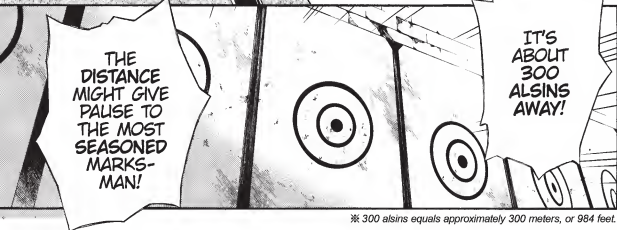
CAN'T
YOU
LOWER
IT?

NO.

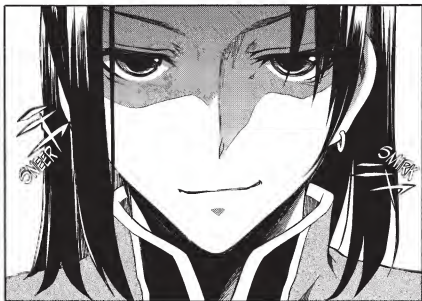
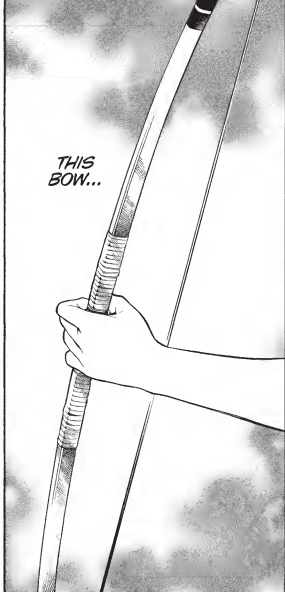


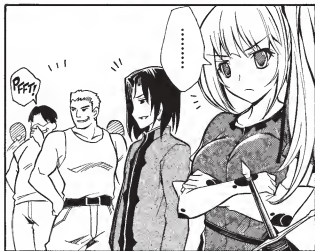
NO, I
NEED
TO GO
HOME!

I-I
CAN'T
LET
THEM
WIN
...!



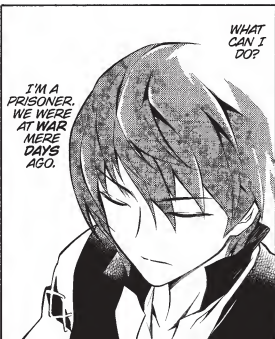








THEY
DON'T
WANT
ME TO
SUC-
CEED.

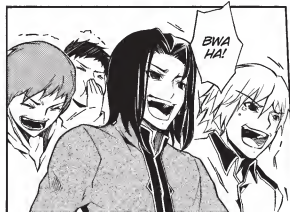


WHAT
CAN I
DO?

I'M A
PRISONER.
WE WERE
AT WAR
MERE
DAYS
AGO.



SCHNWAF



BWA
HA!



LOTTNEN



COME ON.



I CAN AT LEAST SHOOT STRAIGHT.

BWA HA HA HA HA!!

LET ME TAKE A SHOT!



GIVE IT UP. WHY HUMILIATE YOURSELF?



BECAUSE HE'S ENTERTAINING!

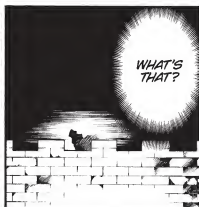
WHY DID THE WAR MAIDEN CAPTURE HIM?



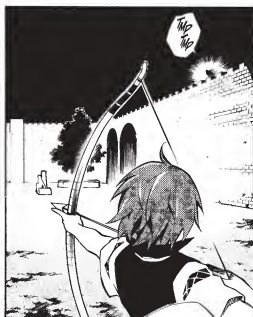
HMM?



TOMORROW, WE CAN MAKE HIM JUGGLE SWORDS!



WHAT'S
THAT?



Two
No



A
CROSS-
BOW!!



THVUUSH

IS
THAT AN
ASSAS-
SIN?!

GET
DOWN
!!!



ARIFAR.



LADY
ELEO-
NORA
!!



WHOOSH

FFZZOOSH

?!

THWACK

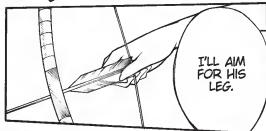
ドサッ



I
COULDN'T
CARE
LESS!



I'LL AIM
FOR HIS
LEG.



GET BACK HERE!

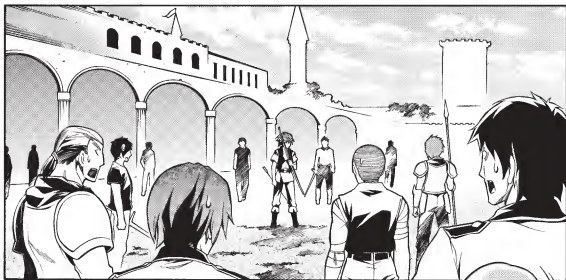


DO YOU
WANT HIM
ALIVE?

I KNOW
THIS BOW
BETTER
AFTER
SHOOTING
THOSE
ARROWS.







I THINK
NOT.
YOU'D LOOK
RATHER
RUTHLESS.



SHOULD
I FIRE
AGAIN?
IT'S YOUR
CHOICE.



WELL
DONE.

CHAPTER 2: END



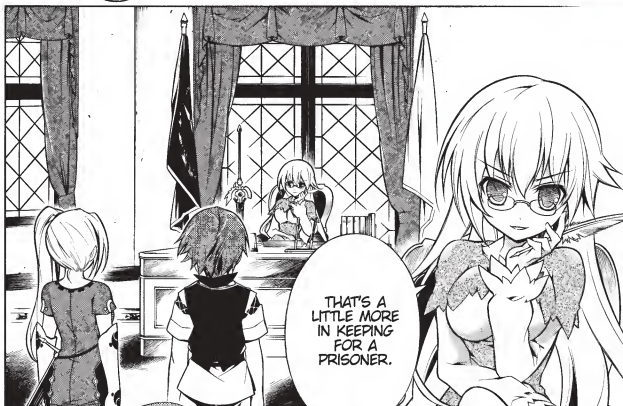
3

◆ A MAID'S PRAYER, A MAIDEN'S INVITATION

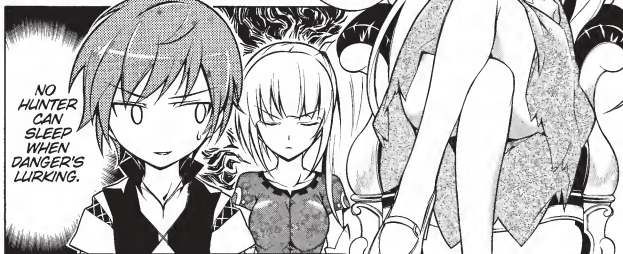


NO. HE
WAS UP
WHEN
I GOT
THERE.

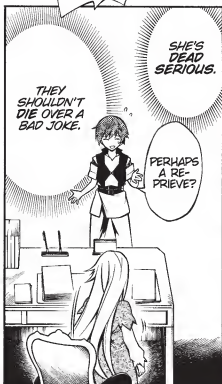
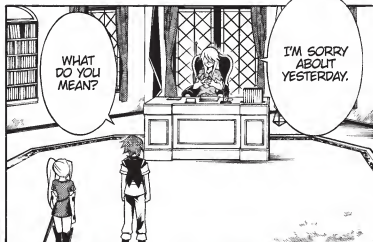
DID OUR
GUEST
SLEEP IN
AGAIN THIS
MORNING?

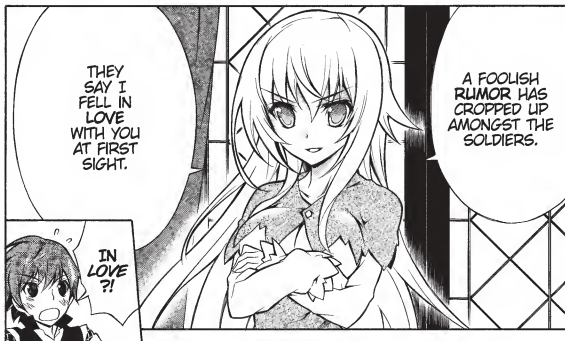
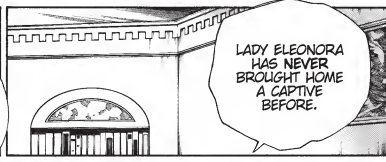


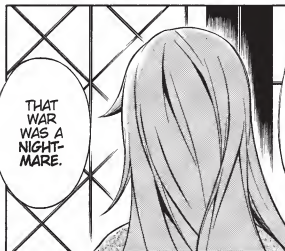
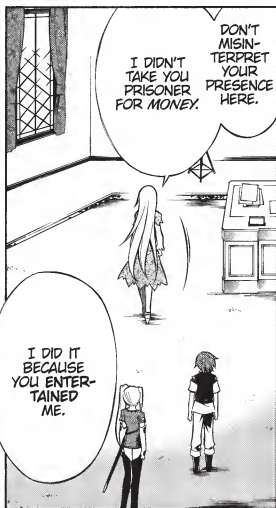
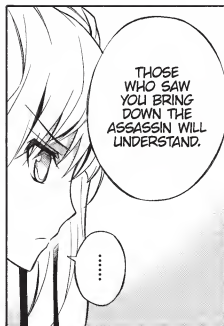
THAT'S A
LITTLE MORE
IN KEEPING
FOR A
PRISONER.



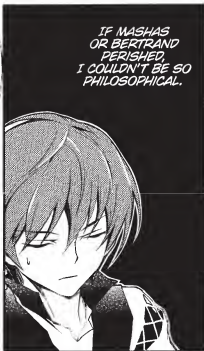
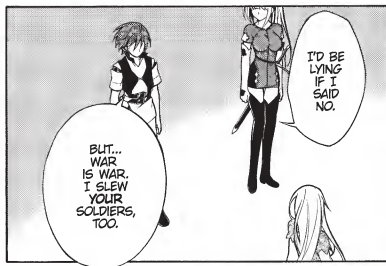
NO
HUNTER
CAN
SLEEP
WHEN
DANGER'S
LURKING.

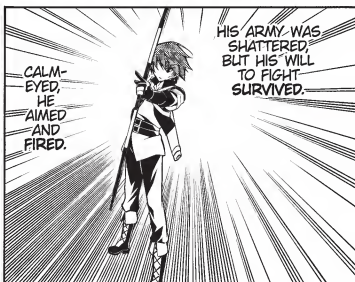
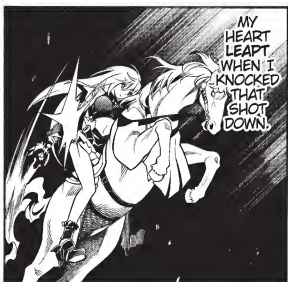
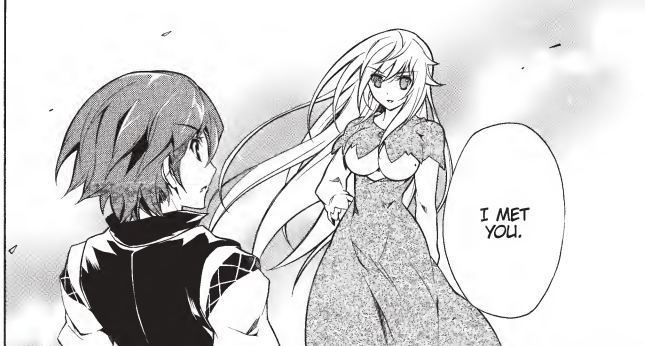














I WANT
YOU.

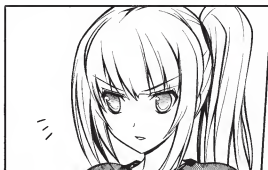
KILLING
YOU WOULD
BE SO
WASTEFUL,
TIGRE.

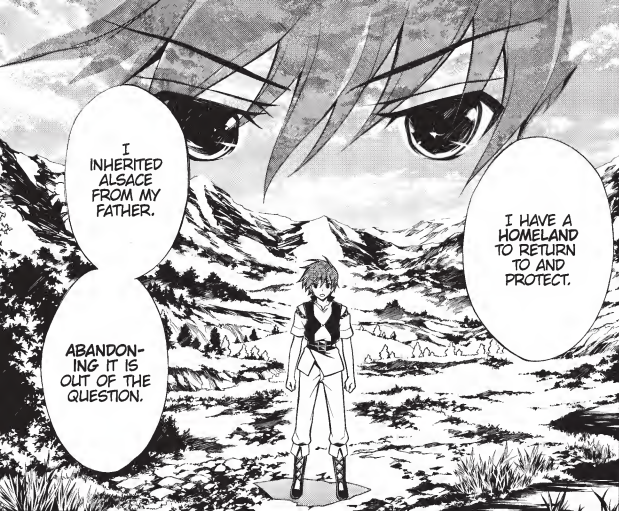
JOIN
ME.

NO ONE
WILL HOLD
YOUR
ORIGINS
AGAINST
YOU.

YOU'LL
KEEP
YOUR
RANK AS
COUNT.



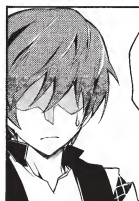




I
INHERITED
ALSACE
FROM MY
FATHER.

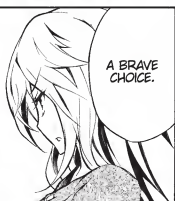
I HAVE A
HOMELAND
TO RETURN
TO AND
PROTECT.

ABANDON-
ING IT IS
OUT OF THE
QUESTION.

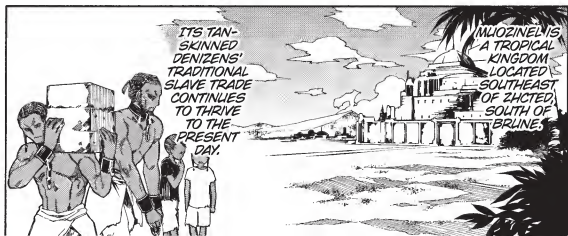


IF YOUR RANSOM
DEADLINE PASSES
UNPAID, YOU'LL BE
SOLD INTO SLAVERY
IN MUOZINEL.

YOU'VE
CONSIDERED
THE CONSE-
QUENCES?

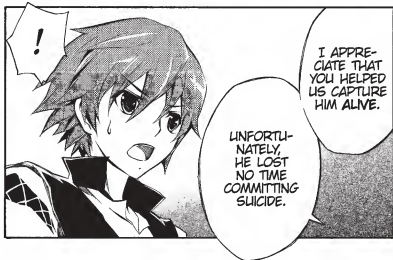
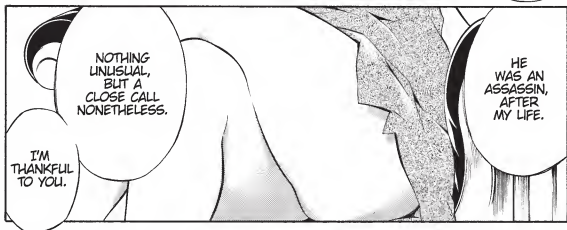
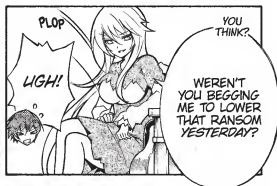
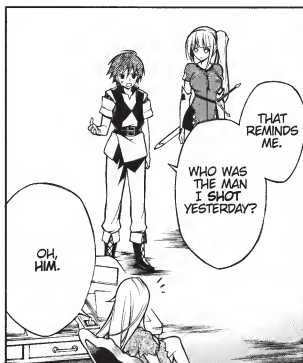


A BRAVE
CHOICE.



IT'S TAN-
SKINNED
DENIZENS'
TRADITIONAL
SLAVE TRADE
CONTINUES
TO THRIVE
TO THE
PRESENT
DAY.

MUOZINEL IS
A TROPICAL
KINGDOM
LOCATED
SOUTHEAST
OF ZHCTED,
SOUTH OF
BRUNES.





NO! I'M
SIMPLY
CURIOUS.



ARE YOU
WORRIED
ABOUT ME?

HOW
SWEET.



WH-

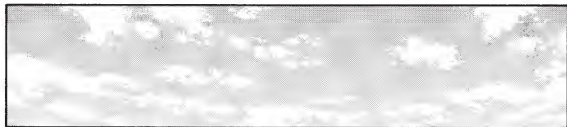
WHY
DIDN'T
HIS
ARROW
STRIKE
YOU?!

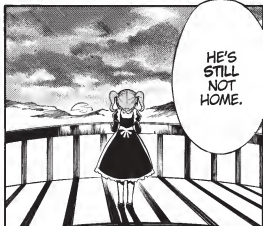
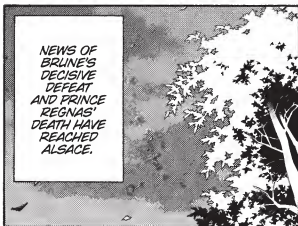
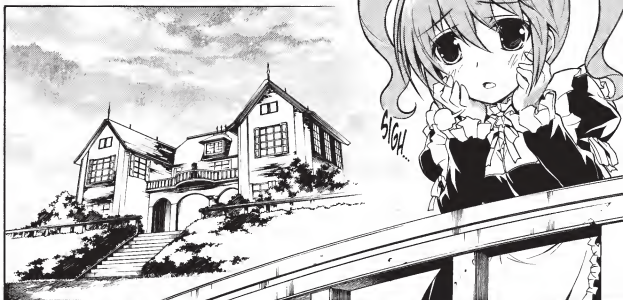


YOU'RE
CAPTIVE,
BUT YOU'RE
FREE TO
ROAM THE
MANOR.

FIND
OUT FOR
YOURSELF
IF YOU'RE
INTERESTED.

I DON'T
KNOW.





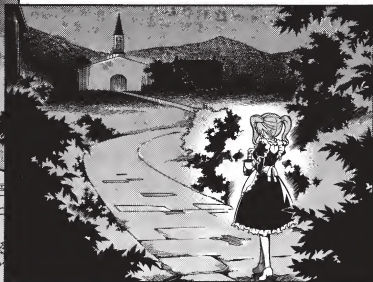
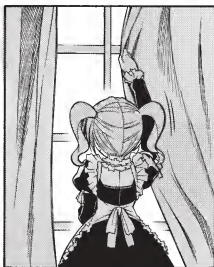
SO,
PLEASE...

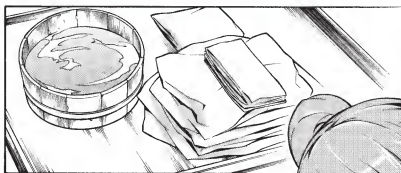
LORD
TIGRE...

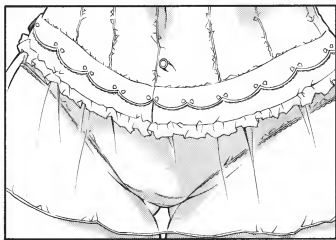
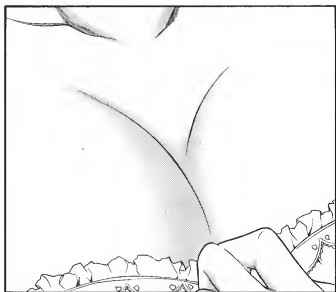
I CAN
DRAW HIS
BATH THE
MOMENT
HE DESIRES
IT.

I'VE
CHECKED
OUR
MEDICAL
SUPPLIES
IN CASE
HE'S
INJURED.

THERE'S
FOOD AND
DRINK
READY AND
WAITING,
AS USUAL.









ALINTIE'S
HOUSE!

WHERE
ARE YOU
OFF TO,
TITTA?!

BUT
YOUR
RITUAL
ISN'T
FINISHED!

MASTER
TIGRRRE!

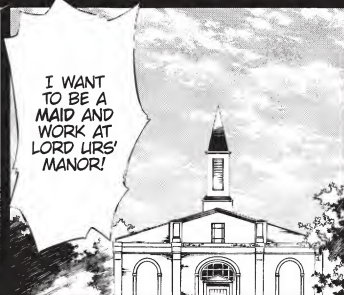
AUGH!!

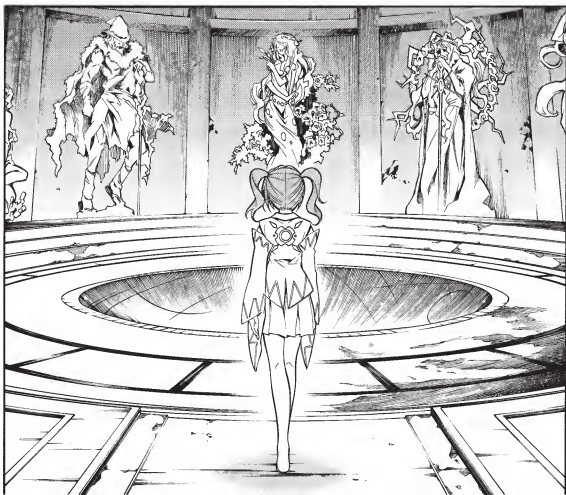
FWUMP

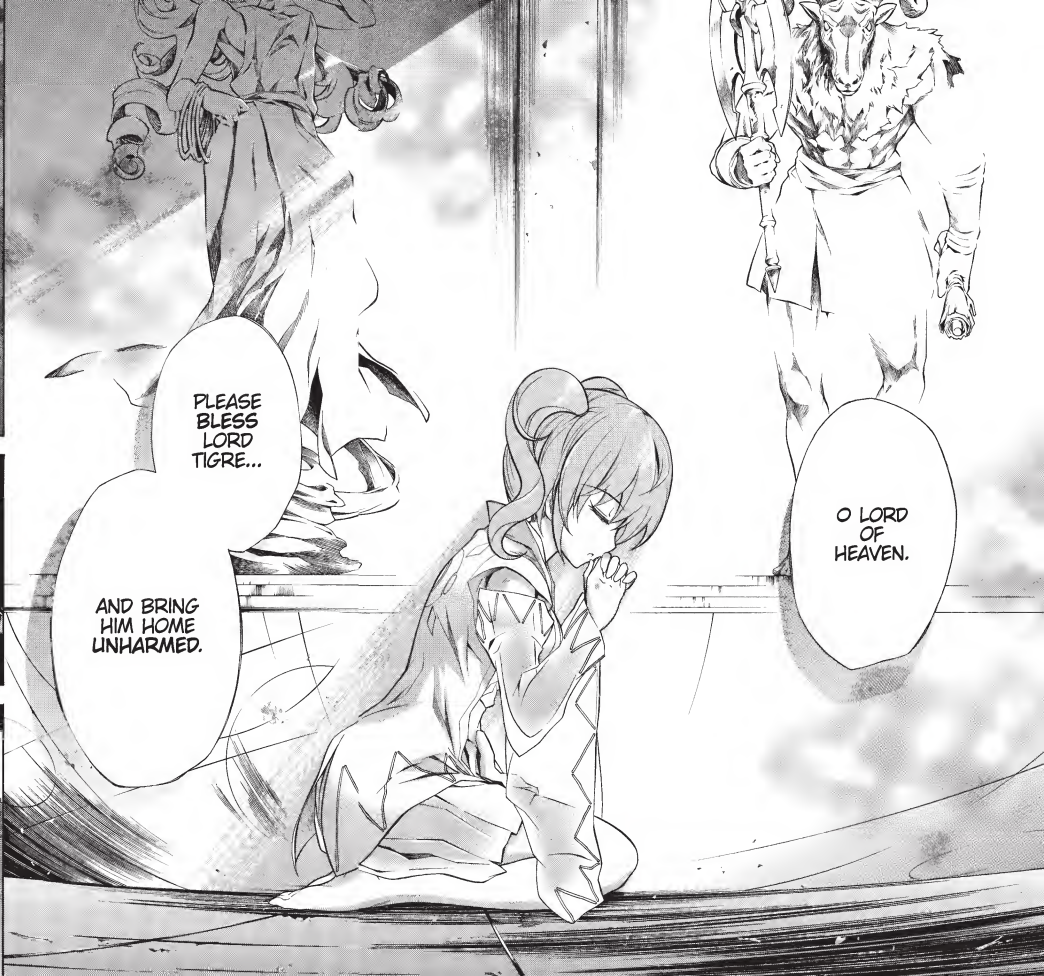
I HELPED
ALINTIE
BAKE
COOKIES!

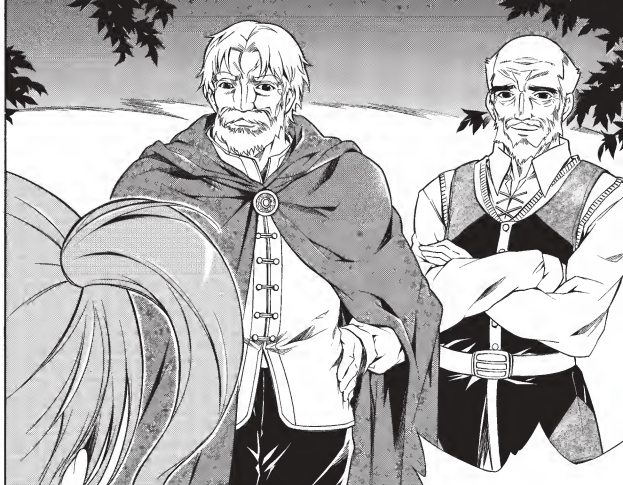
TITTA,
I TOLD
YOU
NOT TO
WAKE
ME UP
LIKE
THAT.

COUGH!
COUGH!



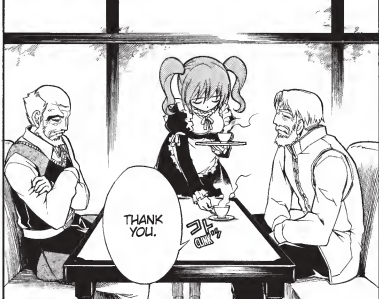






**BERTRAND!
LORD
MASHAS!**







AND
IN 40
DAYS
?!

WHAT WILL
HAPPEN IF
WE DON'T
PAY?!

WE SIMPLY
CAN'T RAISE
THAT MUCH
MONEY!



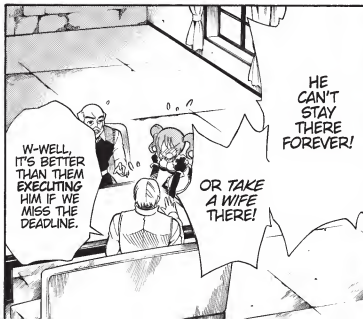
TAKE
WIVES?!



..TAKE WIVES,
AND LIVE OUT
THEIR LIVES IN
THE ENEMY'S
SERVICE.

WE CAN
EXPECT TIGRE
TO BE SENT
TO A SLAVE
DEALER...

SOME
CAPTIVES
...



W-WELL,
IT'S BETTER
THAN THEM
EXECUTING
HIM IF WE
MISS THE
DEADLINE.

OR TAKE
A WIFE
THERE!

HE
CAN'T
STAY
THERE
FOREVER!



THAT
MUSTN'T
HAPPEN!

SLAM

007





TIGRE
IS THE
PEOPLE'S
KIND AND
FAIR LORD!
THEY HAVE
TO HELP!



CHAPTER 3: **END**





SIR
TIGREVURMUD.



UHM...

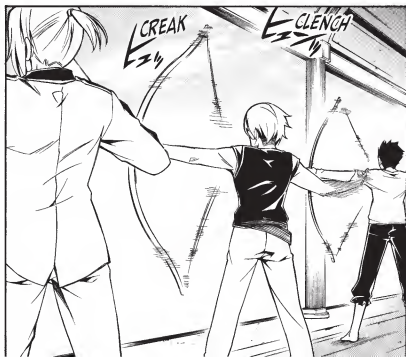
I, RURICK,
SHALL SERVE
AS YOUR
GUARDIAN
HENCEFORTH.

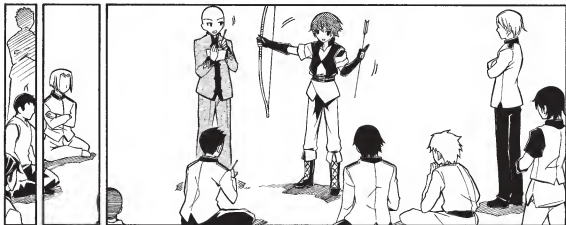


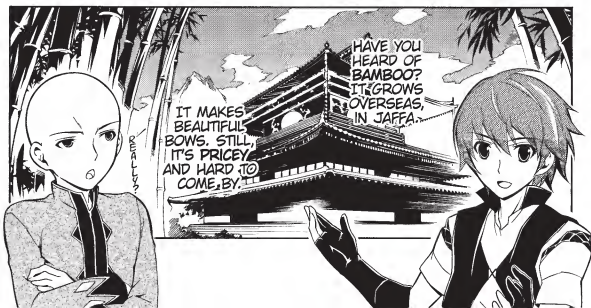
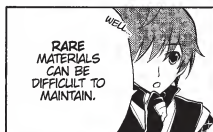
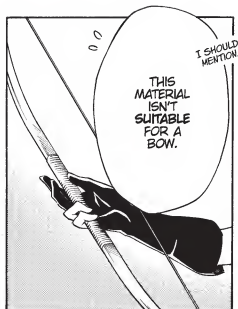
I
SHAVED
IT OFF.

WHAT
HAPPENED
TO...?

SPARKLE
さあやか









"MADE OF
DRAGON
BONES"
MEANS
SOMETHING
THAT
DOESN'T
EXIST.



I'D LIKE A
BOW MADE
OF DRAGON
BONES.



BUT
DRAGONS
DO EXIST.

SO MOST
PEOPLE
BELIEVE
DRAGONS
ARE MERELY
LEGEND.

THEY'RE
SELDOM
SIGHTED,
DWELLING
IN HIGH
MOUNTAINS
OR DEEP
FORESTS.

IT'S NATURAL
TO ASSUME
SOMETHING SO
EXCEPTIONAL
IS IMAGINARY.



DRAGON
HIDE IS TOUGH
ENOUGH TO
BREAK AXES
AND HAMMERS,
OR WITHSTAND
INTENSE HEAT.



RURICK,
SIR TIGRE,
ARE YOU
FREE
AFTER
THIS?



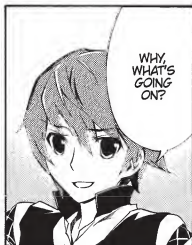
I'M IN--
IF YOU'RE
NOT TOO
ATTACHED
TO YOUR
MONEY!

YOU'VE
GOT
GUTS!

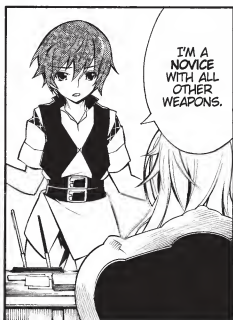
NOW
YOU'RE
TALKING!

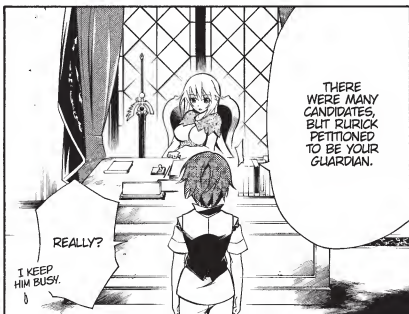
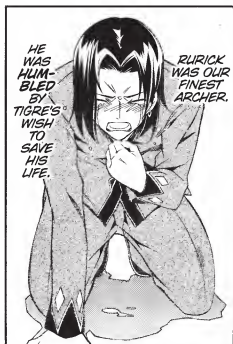


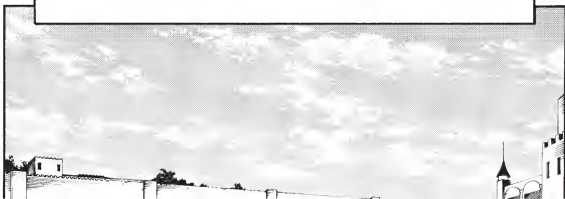
A
ROUND
OF
CARDS.



WHY,
WHAT'S
GOING
ON?









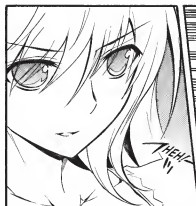
I'M NOT
MADE OF
CRYSTAL.



I'M NO
GOOD WITH
SPEARS.
SHE'S
BEATING ME
SOUNDLY.

I'M NOT
JUST
HOPELESS
WITH A
SWORD...

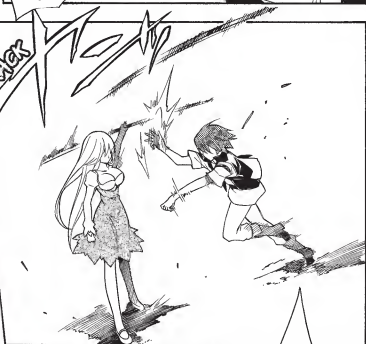




WRAHHH!!

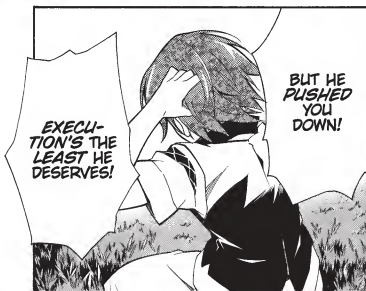


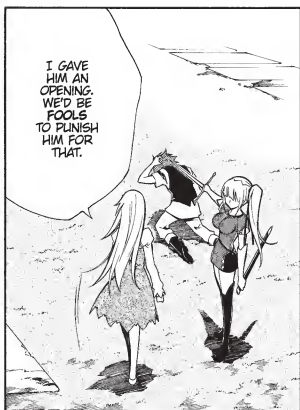
THACK

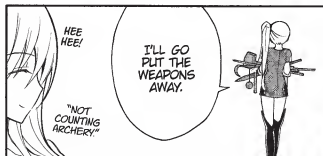


YAHHH!!









IT'S
COMFORTABLE
HERE.

CAN'T LIE...

AND ABOVE ALL,
MY MARKSMANSHIP
IS RESPECTED.

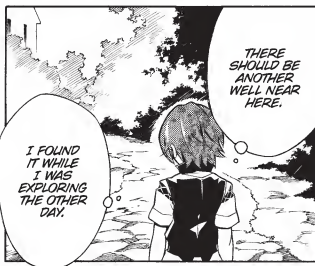
A PRISONER'S
MOVEMENTS
ARE LIMITED,
OF COURSE.

BUT I
SLEEP
LATE, EAT
DELICIOUS
FOOD...

I
SHOULD
WASH
UP.

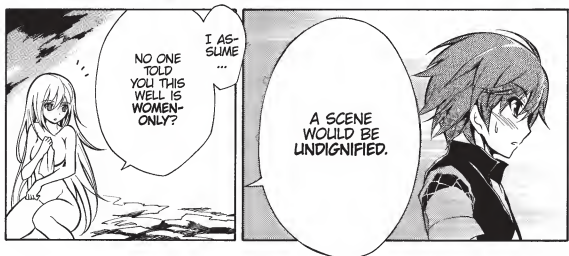
ALSACE
AND ITS
PEOPLE
ARE MY
PRIORITY.

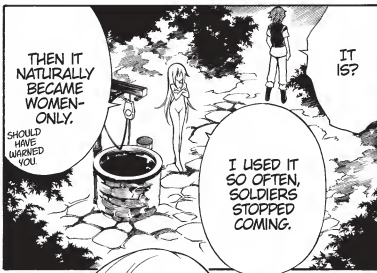
STILL...



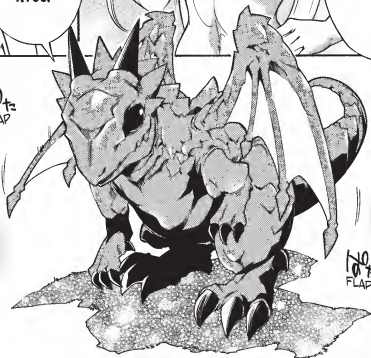
HM?

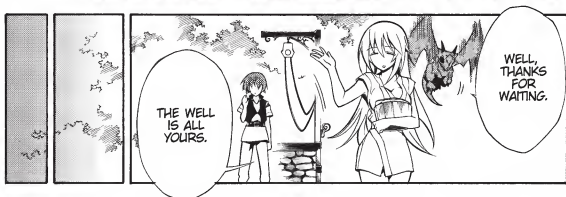


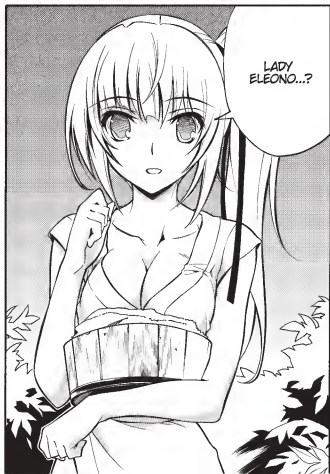
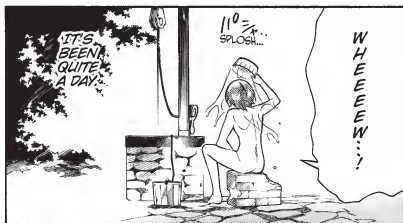


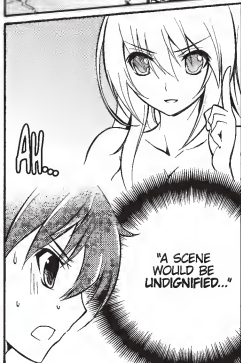
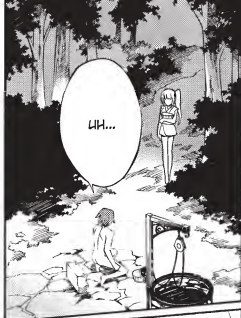


FLAP









CHAPTER 4: END

CHAPTER

5

◆ THE WAR MAIDEN
IN TOWN





**YOU
SAW
IT?!**

-ELEONORA'S MANOR-



OOH!



**HIS WAN-
DERINGS
OUGHT
TO BE
CURBED!**

**NO
COMMENT!**



**WHAT
DID IT
LOOK
LIKE?**

MURR...

MURR...



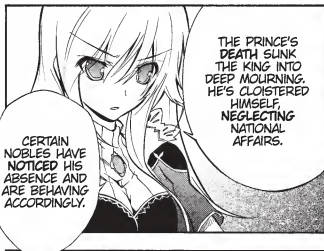
HERE'S
THE REPORT
ON BRUNE.



YES---
BUT
PERHAPS
IN MY
SERVICE.

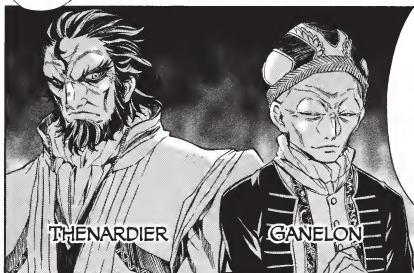


HE'LL LEAVE
THE MANOR
EVENTUALLY.



CERTAIN
NOBLES HAVE
NOTICED HIS
ABSENCE AND
ARE BEHAVING
ACCORDINGLY.

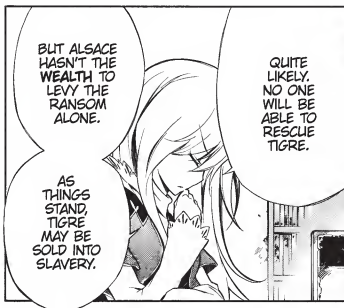
THE PRINCE'S
DEATH SUNK
THE KING INTO
DEEP MOURNING.
HE'S CLOISTERED
HIMSELF,
NEGLECTING
NATIONAL
AFFAIRS.



THENARDIER

GANELON

THE HOUSES
OF GANELON AND
THENARDIER ARE
CAUSING ESPECIAL
TROUBLE BETWEEN
THEMSELVES.



BUT ALSACE
HASN'T THE
WEALTH TO
LEVY THE
RANSOM
ALONE.

AS
THINGS
STAND,
TIGRE
MAY BE
SOLD INTO
SLAVERY.

QUITE
LIKELY.
NO ONE
WILL BE
ABLE TO
RESCUE
TIGRE.



ARE YOU
EXPECTING
CIVIL WAR?



IS THAT
WHY YOU
WANT HIM
IN YOUR
SERVICE
OFFICIALLY?



AT ANY
RATE...

LEAVE
HIM BE.

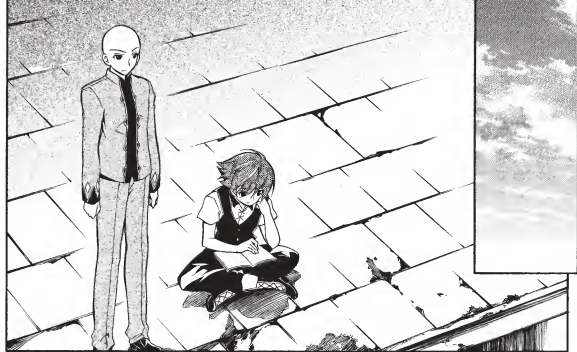
I'LL
HEAR WHAT
GRIEVANCES
ANYONE
MAY HAVE.

UNDER-
STOOD.



HIS
MARKSMAN-
SHIP'S TOO
GOOD TO
PASS UP.

WITH
TRAINING,
HE COULD
BE MY
AIDE.



FIFTY-ODD
TRIBES HAD
DWINDED TO
THIRTY BEFORE
A STRANGE MAN
APPEARED.

THERE WAS
A WAR THAT
LASTED A
CENTURY.

ABOUT
THREE
HUNDRED
YEARS
AGO...



MOST
LAUGHED
AT HIM.



BUT
SEVEN
TRIBES
BELIEVED,
AND
FOLLOWED.



"I'M THE
BLACK
DRAGON'S
INCARNATION.

"CROWN
ME KING,
AND I'LL
LEAD
YOU TO
VICTORY!"

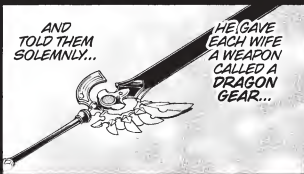




"NOW
YOU'RE WAR
MAIDENS."



EACH TRIBE
OFFERED HIM
A PLEDGE: THEIR
MOST BEAUTIFUL
MASTERS OF
WEAPONRY
AS WIVES.



AND
TOLD THEM
SOLEMNLY...

HE GAVE
EACH WIFE
A WEAPON
CALLED A
DRAGON
GEAR...



ZHCTED.

AFTERWARDS,
THEY FORMED
A KINGDOM.

THEN HE LED
THE TRIBES
TO VICTORY,
AS PROMISED.



"NO HUMAN
ACHIEVEMENT
CAN CHANGE
THAT IMMUTABLE
TRUTH."

"THE WAR
MAIDENS
HAVE NO
SUPERIOR,
SAVE FOR
THE KING."

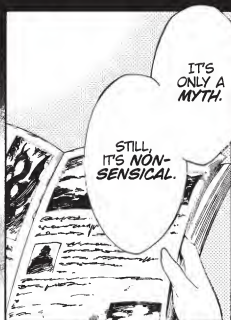
LEBUS

THE NEWLY-
CROWNED
KING MAPPED
OUT SEVEN
DOMAINS.
HE GAVE
THEM TO HIS
WIVES.

OLMUTZ

LEGNICA

LEITMERITZ



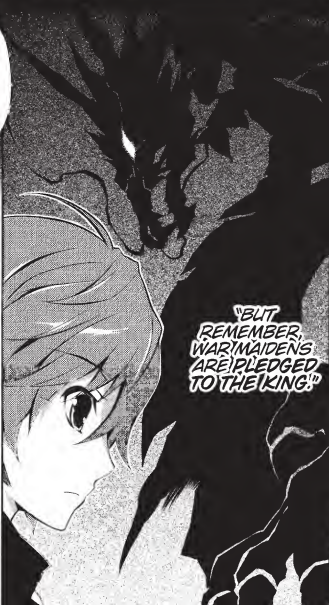
IT'S
ONLY A
MYTH.

STILL,
IT'S NON-
SENSICAL.



THEIR
LANGUAGE
IS SO
DIFFICULT.

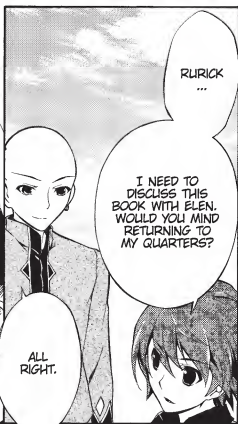
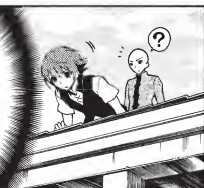
IS THIS
REALLY
THEIR
SIMPLEST
HISTORY
BOOK?

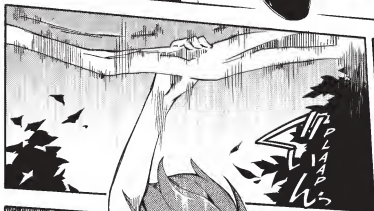


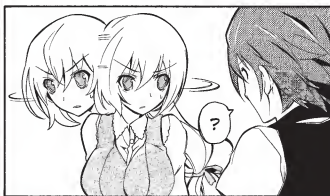
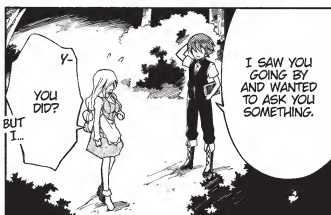
"BUT
REMEMBER,
WARMAIDENS
ARE PLEDGED
TO THE KING."



ELEN?
WHAT'S SHE
SNEAKING
AROUND FOR?
AND WHY IS
SHE DRESSED
LIKE THAT?



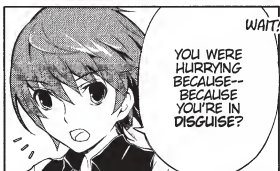






IT'S A
CASTLE
TOWN.

BUSH
DAY.





WE'LL
BOTH GET
A TASTE OF
SOMETHING
NEW.

SINCE
YOU'RE
HERE
ANYWAY...

STICK
WITH
ME.



WHY DID
YOU WANT
TO SEE ME,
ANYWAY?

IS IT
ABOUT
THAT
BOOK?



YES

I HAD
A FEW
QUESTIONS.

BUT
THEY CAN
WAIT.



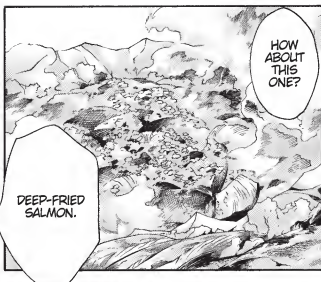
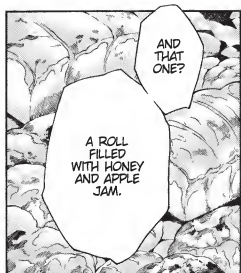
STEAMED
MUSHROOMS
AND POTATOES
WITH PICKLES.

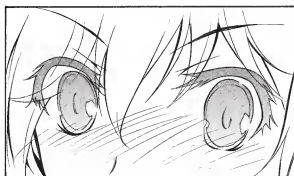
WHAT'S
THAT?



WHAT'S
THIS?

RYE
WINE. IT'S
REFRESHING.





WHAT'S
WRONG?



HEY.



YOU
CAUGHT
ME OFF
GUARD,
YOU
KNOW.



BLUSH

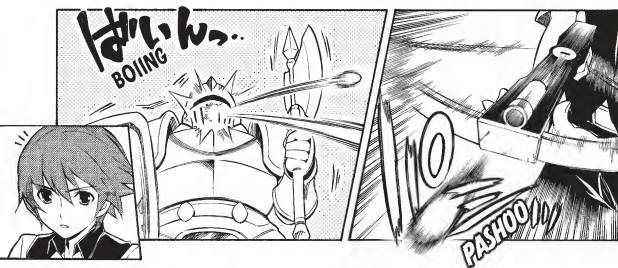
N-
NOTHING
AT ALL.

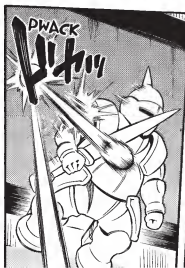
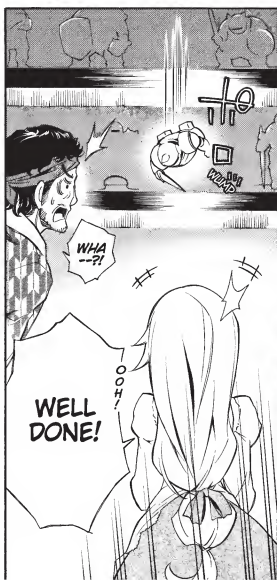
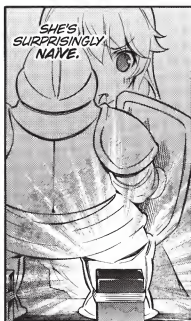




STEP
RIGHT
UP!











HOW'S
THIS?

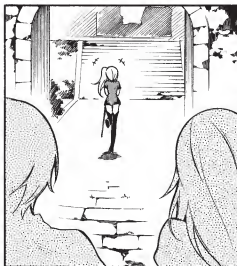
DO I
LOOK
NICE?

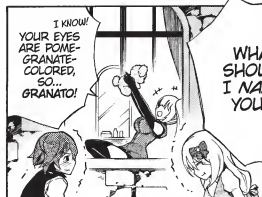










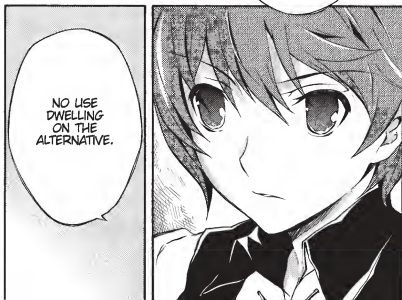


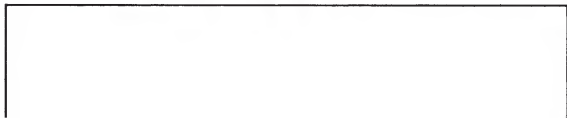
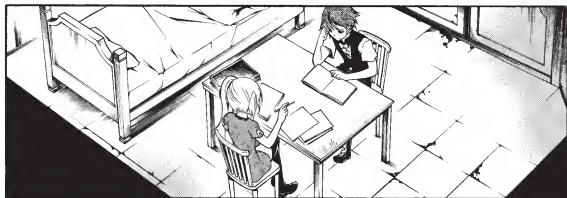
WHAT
SHOULD
I NAME
YOU?!

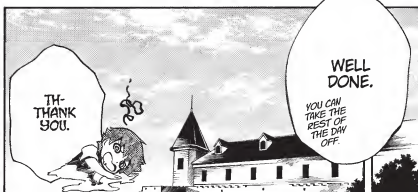


IT SHOULD
TAKE THE
EDGE RIGHT
OFF.

IF SHE
EVER GETS
UPSET WITH
YOU, JUST
GIVE HER
A STUFFED
TOY.







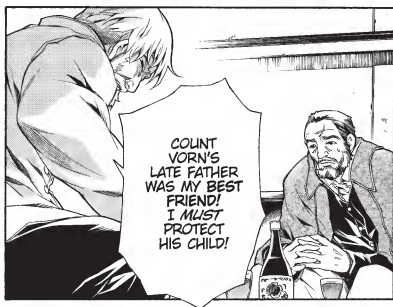
WE'D ONLY
MAKE HIM
WORRY.
STILL...

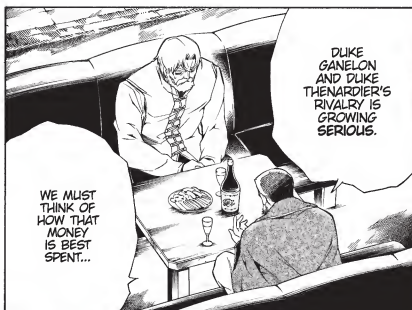
IF WE
TOLD HIM
ABOUT THE
LIPHEAVAL
IN BRUNE...



I WONDER
IF HE
SOMEHOW
KNOWS.

CHAPTER 5: END



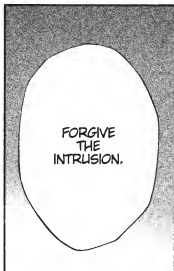


DUKE
GANELON
AND DUKE
THENARDIER'S
RIVALRY IS
GROWING
SERIOUS.

WE MUST
THINK OF
HOW THAT
MONEY
IS BEST
SPENT...



I KNEW
IT...



FORGIVE
THE
INTRUSION.



ONE WRONG
MOVE CAN
DESTROY
A HOUSE...

AND OF
HOW A
DONATION
WOULD
LOOK.



YET
ANOTHER
FOOL'S
ERRAND.

RUMBLE...

KROOOO...





HE'S
BEING
HELD
HOSTAGE
BY A
ZHOCTED
GENERAL..
A WAR
MAIDEN.



HMM.

I
REMEMBER.

THAT
WEAKLING
WHO CAN'T
USE A
SWORD
OR A
SPEAR.

DUKE THENARDIER



IT SEEMS
HE'S IN THE
DARK ABOUT
HIS SON'S
LITTLE SCENE
AT DINANT
PLAINS.



VORN'S
DISGRACEFUL
BEHAVIOR HAS
EMBARRASSED
MY SON.

OF COURSE.
THAT COWARD
WOULD BE
TAKEN ALIVE.



YOU THINK
I'D HELP
BAIL OUT
THAT
SHAMELESS
FOOL?



W-WELL, SIR
MASHAS, COUNT
VORN'S ALLY,
IS CANVASSING
FOR ASSISTANCE
AMASSING THE
YOUNG COUNT'S
RANSOM.

...MIGHT
BENEFIT
YOUR
EFFORTS
AGAINST
DUKE
GANELON.

VORN'S
MINOR
NOBILITY,
GRANTED,
BUT HIS
RESCUE...

N-NOT IN
SO MANY
WORDS, YOUR
EXCELLENCY.

THENARDIER'S
WIFE IS THE
KING'S NIECE.
THE KING'S
NEPHEW IS
GANELON'S
BROTHER-
IN-LAW.

THE POWER
STRUGGLE
BETWEEN
THENARDIER
AND GANELON
IS NO SHOCK
TO THE
BRUNISH
NOBILITY.

THEREFORE,
HIS NIECE AND
NEPHEW ARE
NEXT IN LINE
FOR THE THRONE.

THE KING
NOW HAS NO
SIBLINGS OR
CHILDREN.





WHY
ALSACE?

THAT'S
VORN'S
TERRITORY...



ALSACE
...



TRUE. SO,
YOU WANT IT
DESTROYED.

DOES
CRUSHING
ALSACE
REALLY
REQUIRE
3,000 MEN?



TINY AS
IT SEEMS, IT'S
VULNERABLE
TO GANELON.

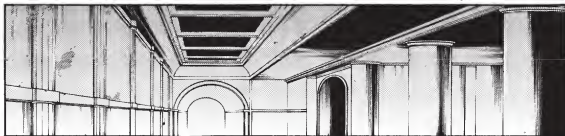
INVASION
FROM
ZICTED
WOULD BE
EQUALLY
PROBLE-
MATIC.

ITS
LORD
IS
ABSENT.



KILL THOSE
WHO RESIST.
CAPTURE
THE REST.

PERHAPS
NOT.
BUT EVEN
FARMERS
HAVE
SCYTHES.





I WISH
TO BESTOW
A GIFT
UPON YOU
BEFORE YOU
DEPART FOR
BATTLE.



YOU
CREPT
UP ON
ME.

OH--
DREKAVAC.
WHAT DO
YOU WANT?



FROM
YOU...
TO ME?

A
GIFT?



WHERE
ARE WE
GOING?



FOLLOW
ME.



HERE
IT IS.

H-
HEY!





HEAVENS ...

GROOARR...

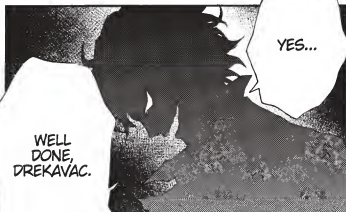
IT'S
NEARLY
FULLY
TRAINED.

IT COULD
PERFORM
BRILLIANTLY
TODAY.



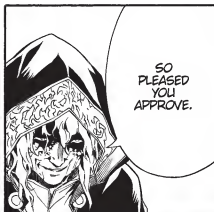
I-IS IT
SAFE?

OF
COURSE.
TOUCH IT.
YOU'LL
SEE.



YES...

WELL
DONE,
DREKAVAC.

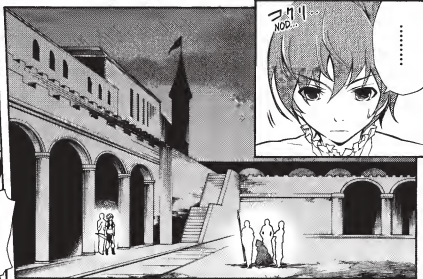


SO
PLEASED
YOU
APPROVE.



I'LL
BRING
THIS
BEAST
ALONG!

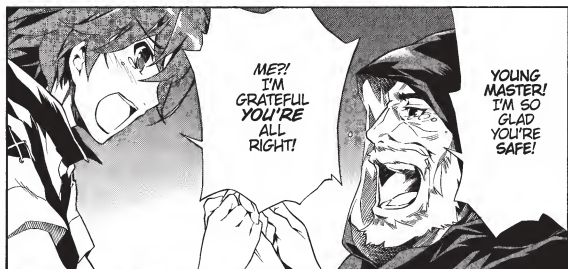




BERTRAND!!

B...





ME?!
I'M GRATEFUL
YOU'RE
ALL
RIGHT!

YOUNG
MASTER!
I'M SO
GLAD
YOU'RE
SAFE!



IS
TITTA
WELL
?!

HOW IS
SIR
MASHAS
?!

WHAT
ABOUT
ALSACE
?!



IF HE HADN'T
MENTIONED
YOUR NAME,
THINGS MIGHT
HAVE GOTTEN
MESSY.



IT'S
JUST AS
WELL WE
CAUGHT
HIM.





I DON'T
KNOW,
BUT...

WH-WHAT
DOES THIS
MEAN?



SIR
MASHAS
SENT
THIS.

HERE
...



"TIGRE,
FORGIVE
MY FAILED
EFFORTS
TO PAY YOUR
RANSOM.



TITTA
...

"TITTA
VISITS THE
SHRINE
DAILY TO
PRAY FOR
YOU."

"ALSACE IS
PEACEFUL
FOR THE
MOMENT.



"IT'S BEEN
SUGGESTED
THAT THIS
MAY PROVOKE
DUKE GANELON
TO SEND IN
HIS ARMY."



"...THE
SITUATION
IS DETERIO-
RATING."

"BUT..."



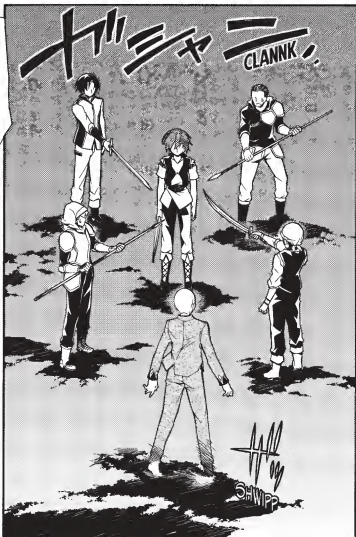
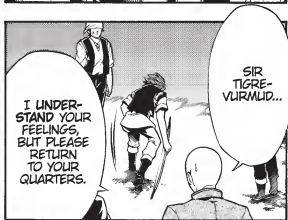
"ALSACE'S
PEOPLE
ARE TO BE
TAKEN TO
THENARDIER'S
LANDS, OR
ENSLAVED IN
MUOZINEL."

"DUKE
THENARDIER
HAS SENT
3,000 MEN
TO RAZE
ALSACE."



THEY'RE
DOING
AS THEY
PLEASE...







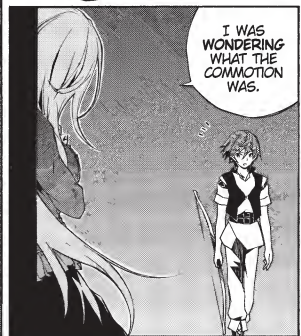
WHERE
DO YOU
THINK
YOU'RE
GOING
AT THIS
HOUR?



I
KNOW.



I'M WILLING
TO TAKE
THAT RISK
TO LEAVE.



I WAS
WONDERING
WHAT THE
COMMOTION
WAS.



LET ME
THROUGH.
I MUST
RETURN
TO ALSACE.



SHE
KNOWS
...



WHAT
HOPE DO
YOU HAVE
AGAINST
3,000
TROOPS?

YOU'RE
BEING
FOOLISH.



WHAT
ARE YOU
GOING
TO DO
THERE?

YOU
KNOW.



ATTEMPT
ESCAPE,
AND YOU'LL
BE KILLED.

I
KNOW!
I AM!



YOU
REALLY
WON'T...
LET ME
THROUGH?



YOU
FIND
THAT
TEMPTING,
DON'T
YOU?

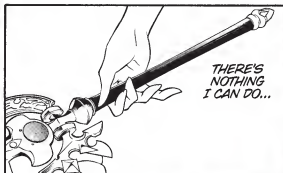
WHY NOT
DO IT
RIGHT
NOW?



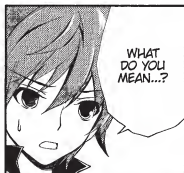
YOUR
REFUSAL
TO USE
YOUR
HEAD.

YOU KNOW
WHAT I
FIND MOST
BOTHER-
SOME?

TIGRE
...



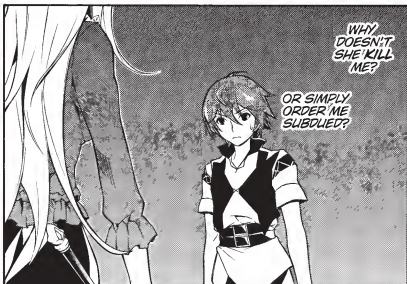
THERE'S
NOTHING
I CAN DO...



WHAT
DO YOU
MEAN...?



COULD
IT BE...



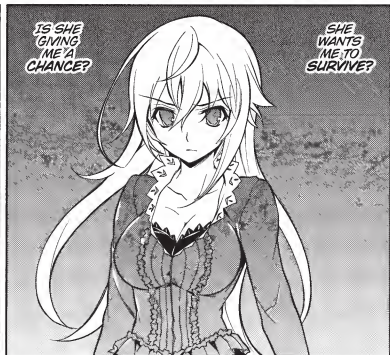
WHY
DOESN'T
SHE KILL
ME?

OR SIMPLY
ORDER ME
SUBDUED?



IF SO, IT'S
PROBABLY
MY ONE
AND ONLY.

SIGH...



IS SHE
GIVING
ME A
CHANCE?

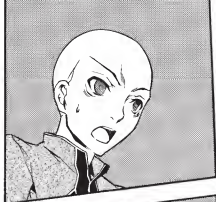
SHE
WANTS
ME TO
SURVIVE?



ELEN.
I NEED A
FAVOR.



LEND
ME YOUR
ARMY!

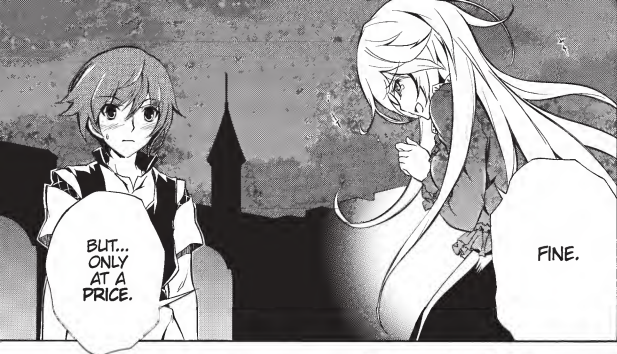


OH
MY!

THAT'S
REFRESH-
INGLY
BOLD!

HA!
HA!

BWA
HA
HA
HA
HA!





LIM!

I ACCEPT
YOUR
TERMS.

WE'RE
GOING
TO
WAR!

HOIST
THE
BLACK
DRAGON
FLAG!

TO BE CONTINUED...

魔弾の 王と戦姫

ヴァナディース

AFTERWORD

THANKS
FOR BUYING
LORD
MARKSMAN
AND VANADIS
VOLUME 1.



HI, I'M
NOBUHIKO
YANAI.

TKURA (SALMON ROB)



WHEN I
GOT A
TEXT.

I WAS ON MY
WAY HOME
FROM MY
OVERNIGHT
ASSISTANT
JOB, AS
USUAL...



IT
HAPPENED
IN LATE
MAY 2011.



WRITING
THIS MANGA
WAS A DREAM
COME TRUE
FOR A
NEWCOMER
LIKE ME.

*: THAT'S NOT THE MESSAGE WORD-FOR-WORD. JUST MY INTERPRETATION.

I BE-
LONGED
TO AN
ARCHERY
TEAM IN
HIGH
SCHOOL.

FOR
EXAMPLE,
TIGRE'S
PREFER-
ENCE
FOR
ARCHERY.

ALTHOUGH,
YOU WOULDN'T
CALL ME A
MASTER
MARKSMAN.

SIGH...

CALLING
IT "FATE"
SOUNDS
DRAMATIC,
BUT STILL,
I NOTICED
THINGS I
WAS ALREADY
FAMILIAR
WITH.

WHEN I
READ THE
NOVEL,
I WAS
STUNNED.



I USED TO
WORK AS AN
ASSISTANT FOR
YAMADA-SENSEI
OCCASIONALLY,
AND WE KEPT
IN TOUCH.



AND
YOSHI☆WO,
THE ILLUS-
TRATOR, IS
FRIENDS
WITH AN
ACQUAIN-
TANCE.

I ALSO FELT
THE AUTHOR,
KAWAGUCHI-
SENSEI, AND
I SHARED
SOME
INTERESTS.



LADY
LUDMILA
(SHE MAY
MAKE HER
ENTRANCE
SOON).

LEVEL-HEADED,
PROTECTIVE,
MATURE LIM.

PRAGMATIC,
CHARMING
AND BEAUTIFUL
ELEN.

THIS STORY'S
STRENGTHS
INCLUDE BOTH
ITS MASSIVE
SCOPE AND ITS
CHARACTERS'
PERSONAL
CHARMS.

TIGRE,
WHO'S COOL
UNDER
PRESSURE.

TITTA,
A COURAGEOUS
LITTLE-SISTER
TYPE.

AND...
TOUGH-AS-NAILS
MASHAS AND
BERTRAND!

To finish up,
a quick message to the author, Kawaguchi-sensei;
the illustrator, Yoshi☆wo-sensei; my former
teacher and mentor, Kaishaku-sensei, Youshuu-san
and Kajiyama-san, who helped me out; Yumi-san
and Hitomi-san, who supported me; my editor,
Kurita-san; Yamada Koutarou-sensei, who's been
good to me in every way; and my readers...

ANYWAY!

I STILL HAVE
A LOT TO LEARN,
BUT WITH YOUR
SUPPORT, I'LL
STRIVE TO MAKE
THIS MANGA AS
GREAT AS THE
NOVEL!

I HAVE A BLOG:
[HTTP://YANAINOBUHIKO.
BLOGSPOT.COM](http://yanainobuhiko.blogspot.com)
(I'M ON TWITTER,
TOO)

IN THE
NEXT
VOLUME,
TIGRE
REALIZES
HIS
STRENGTH
AT LAST!
STAY TUNED!

LET ME
USE THIS
OPPORTUNITY
TO THANK
ALL OF YOU.

ILLUSTRATION BY
NOBUHIKO YANA!

STAFF
MY WIFE
AND
MAKI-CHAN



Hi, I'm Tsukasa Kawaguchi, the original author
of *Lord Marksman and Vanadis*. Although I see the
storyboards each month, having my story adapted into
manga is still exciting and hard to believe. The adaptation's
quality is amazing. So are Yoshi☆wo-san's illustrations.
I'm deeply moved by the interpretations of Tigre and Elen, as well as
Mashas and Bertrand, who are rarely illustrated in the novels.
I'd like to use this opportunity to thank Yanai-sensei, the editor,
and the editorial staff. I hope you continue to support
Lord Marksman and Vanadis!

Tsukasa Kawaguchi
Light Novel Author

Supporting Comments from the Author and Character Designer

☆*..*♡ ♡ ♡*..*☆

Hello, hello! ☆ It's April. (^ω^)

The warm spring weather is on its way!

Mmm! ♡ It's so lovely.♡

I love the gentle weather!

It makes me want to go outside!

I want to relax somewhere nice. ♡♡

☆☆ * * * * * * * ☆

Yoshi☆wo's Twitter account:

http://twitter.com/yoshi_wo

Yoshi☆wo
Character Designer

SEVEN SEAS ENTERTAINMENT PRESENTS

Lord Marksman — and Vanadis — VOL. 1

original story by TSUKASA KAWAGUCHI / art by NOBUHIKO YANAI / character design by YOSHI☆WO

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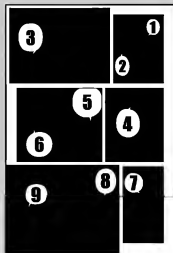
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READING DIRECTIONS

This book reads from *right to left*, Japanese style. If this is your first time reading manga, you start reading from the top right panel on each page and take it from there. If you get lost, just follow the numbered diagram here. It may seem backwards at first, but you'll get the hang of it! Have fun!!



“YOU WILL BECOME MINE.”

The country of Brune is on the brink of civil war, and their neighboring rival Zhcted has seized the opportunity to attack. Tigre, a young nobleman, is dispatched to the battlefield where he encounters Elen, one of Zhcted's Vanadis—a group of women who fight with powerful weapons forged from dragons. While Tigre is overwhelmed by Elen's beauty and power, Elen is impressed by his archery skills and declares that he belongs to her! Will Tigre be able to turn the tides of battle or is he now simply the spoils of war?

Rated: TEEN

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